

WASC REACCREDITATION VISIT, MARCH 4-6, 2009

From: CSU, Chico President Paul Zingg
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To: All Announce (restricted)
Subject: WASC Reaccreditation Visit, March 4-6, 2009

To: The Campus Community

From: Paul J. Zingg, President

Yes, WASC Is Coming ... Again! It seems like only yesterday that we were visited by WASC for a reaffirmation of our institutional accreditation. A WASC Visitation Team conducted the Capacity and Preparatory Review in March of 2007 and found “a vibrant and healthy institution with many admirable qualities.” The team commended us for our “strong community and the remarkable commitment of the faculty, staff, and administration to student success.” It was impressed with our strategic plan and how it is “integrated into important aspects of university function ...” It commended us for our “strong, collaborative, and experienced staff, which is committed to providing superior support systems that promote engagement and student success” as well as for our students who “feel strongly about their role as active citizens within the Chico community” and who “take great pride in their ability to work in teams.” Finally, the team applauded the quality of our civic engagement and our role as a “major force in economic development, the arts, and support of K-12 education” in the North State.

The Visitation Team is returning **March 4-6, 2009**, this time to review our commitment to educational effectiveness. As I have reported to you during my convocation addresses, the campus has deeply engaged itself in issues of educational and institutional effectiveness. The results of these efforts are highlighted in our self-study which is appropriately entitled, [The Heart of the Matter: Student Learning and Student Success](#). The self-study addresses the themes of “student engagement at a residential campus,” the “academic program review process,” the “innovative use of technology,” and “institutional effectiveness and accountability.” As you review these materials, [the hyperlinks, the reports, and the related evidence materials](#), I think, you, too, will conclude that each of the essays tells the story of how Chico State faculty, staff and students, along with community partners, have made exceptional efforts to strengthen and advance student learning. These successes have come within the context of integrated campus planning and priorities that have shaped campus direction and reinforced our values.

The self-study also acknowledges the real challenges we are facing. Current and anticipated reductions in state support coupled with limited opportunity for enrollment growth will seriously challenge all of us to stick to our core themes of values-based intentionality and alignment of purposes, principles and practices. Through the thoughtful, skillful, and caring efforts of our faculty and staff, Chico State will remain absolutely committed to serving students, and seeing them succeed. I have no doubt that what has made this such a good and vital place will not be diminished by the current political shortsightedness, and that as we continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs, both public and private financial support will continue to come our way.

The WASC visiting team has a full [schedule](#) for the three days they are on campus and many of you will interact with team members in a variety of venues. I want to extend a special invitation to each of you to attend the **March 4, 2009 Poster session “Telling the Chico Story 2009”** to be held in the Bell Memorial Union Auditorium from 4:30 – 6:00 PM.

Your involvement in this affirmation of accreditation process is deeply appreciated. As much as any report or presentation, it is key to a successful review. On April 5, 2007, in [Inside Chico State](#), I concluded “They Got It!” Dr. Donald J. Farish, Chair of the Visitation Team, earlier in the exit interview had noted “This thing called the Chico Experience? We got it.” Let us show the Team, once again, that we did not invent the Chico story just for them; we live it every day.